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**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SBC-JIC Jesusita Fire 039  
DATE: May 8, 2009  
TIME: 0840 (8:40 AM)

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**FACE MASKS AVAILABLE**

Direct Relief International (DRI), in cooperation with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department will be distributing free NIOSH N-95 face masks to residents between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2009 at the following locations:

- Lazy Acres Shopping Center on the Mesa
- Loretto Plaza at State and Las Positas
- Goleta Community Center on Hollister Avenue

There is a limited supply of masks so please request only what you absolutely need if you cannot avoid outdoor exposure to the smoke generated by the Jesusita Fire. "These masks are being made available to the public for free," said Dr. Elliot Schulman, Director of the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department.

Schulman said it is critical that the masks be fitted properly on the face, so instruction for proper fitting will be included at the distribution sites listed in the press release.

"It's better to avoid exposure, particularly for those with known lung or breathing problems," said Schulman. "But if you have to be outdoors, especially if you're doing vigorous activity, it is wise to wear a mask to reduce exposure to inhaled wild land fire smoke."

It is the tiny, invisible particles that get into the lungs and can cause problems, he said.

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